

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 058500
ORIGIN EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /004 R

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TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE

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FOR BROWN FROM ANDREWS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE IS PLANNING A TRIP TO THE SOVIET UNION DURING THE EASTER RECESS, WITH STOPS ON THE WAY TO MOSCOW IN COPENHAGEN AND HELSINKI. THE PERIOD THEY HAVE SET ASIDE FOR THE TRIP IS MARCH 23-APRIL 3. THEY PLAN TO BE IN MOSCOW AND LENINGRAD FOR CLOSE TO FIVE DAYS, WHERE CODEL INTENDS TO DISCUSS SALT AND OTHER ARMS LIMITATION MATTERS WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS. MEETINGS WITH GROMYKO, CHIEF OF STAFF OF SOVIET ARMED FORCES, AND OTHERS WILL BE REQUESTED.

2. CODEL WILL BE LED BY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MELVIN PRICE (ILLINOIS) AND CONSIST OF 50-55 PERSONS, INCLUDING SOME SEVEN COMMITTEE MEMBERS, WIVES, POSSIBLY SIX CONGRESSMEN
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FROM OTHER COMMITTEES, 2 OR 3 COMMITTEE STAFF MEMBERS, INCLUDING STAFF DIRECTOR JOHN FORD, DOD ESCORT PERSONNEL, AND A STATE ESCORT (PROBABLY FROM SOV). THE NAMES OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOW SIGNED ON INDICATE CODEL WILL REPRESENT A FAIRLY BROAD SPECTRUM OF VIEWS, INCLUDING SAMUEL STRATTON (D, N.Y.), MARJORIE HOLT (R, MD.), ROBERT WILSON (R, CALIF.), AND LARRY MACDONALD (D, GEORGIA). SOV TELLS US THAT BOTH

THE DEPARTMENT AND THE SOVIETS ARE IN FAVOR OF THE VISIT,

AND THAT RECENT PANOMAREV PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION SUGGESTED SUCH A VISIT. IN ADDITION TO ARMS LIMITATION DISCUSSIONS, WE EXPECT THERE WILL BE SOME MEETINGS WITH SOVIET PARLIAMENTARIANS, AND CODEL HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN VISITING SOVIET SHIPBUILDING FACILITIES (WHICH SOVIETS MAY WELL NOT AGREE TO).

3. WE HAVE JUST LEARNED (YOU GUESSED IT) THAT THE COMMITTEE IS CONSIDERING MAKING ONE STOP IN AN EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRY ON THE WAY BACK FROM THE USSR, AND THAT WARSAW HAS BEEN MENTIONED BY THEM AS THE PREFERRED PLACE. THE DATES WOULD BE MARCH 30-APRIL 1ST. AT THIS POINT WE UNDERSTAND THERE IS ONLY A LIMITED POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A STOP. HOWEVER, SINCE COMMITTEE HAS REQUESTED OUR VIEWS OF UTILITY OF A STOP IN WARSAW, WE REQUEST YOUR COMMENTS, IN THIS CHANNEL, BY OPENING OF BUSINESS WASHINGTON TIME ON MARCH 9. WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT POLES MIGHT BE UNEASY ABOUT RECEIVING SUCH A GROUP. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR CODEL TO HEAR FIRST-HAND GOP'S INTEREST IN DETENTE, SALT AGREEMENT, ETC. WHAT ABOUT FEASIBILITY OF SENIOR-LEVEL APPOINTMENTS COMPARABLE TO THOSE SOUGHT IN MOSCOW?

4. WE HAVE DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF CODEL WITH AMBASSADOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SCHAUFLE, WHO AGREED THAT WE SHOULD QUERY YOU. HE RECOGNIZES THAT IT WOULD BE QUITE POSSIBLE THAT HE WOULD NOT YET HAVE PRESENTED CREDENTIALS, BUT SAYS THAT WOULD NOT TROUBLE HIM IN THE LEAST. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE058500
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CWSCHMIDT/LVA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780103-0496
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780396/aaaaddfj.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a8df97cb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3412237
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL
TAGS: OGEN
To: WARSAW
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a8df97cb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014